

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated September 17, 2003. Claims 1-39 and 43-48 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-39 and 43-48 have been rejected. Claims 1, 4, 14, 17, 27, and 30 have been amended to further define the scope and novelty of the present invention, for clarification, as well as to correct typographical and grammatical errors. Support for the amendments to the claims is found throughout the specification, and in particular, on page 2, lines 10-23. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been presented. Claims 3, 16, and 29 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-15, 17-28, 30-39, and 43-48 are pending. For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

In the event, however, that the Examiner is not persuaded by Applicant's amendments and arguments, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendments and arguments to clarify issues upon appeal.

### Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has stated:

**Claims 1-39 and 43-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Raz (U.S. Patent no. 6,292,827) of record.**

**Regarding claims 1, 14, 27 and 40-42, Raz discloses a method at (Fig.1-Fig.3, Raz) for accessing information on a network (2, Fig.1), the method comprising the steps of:**

**a) allowing a first system (12, Fig.3) to submit a query to a second system (18, Fig3, Raz); please note that the client terminal and server are correspond to the first system and second system.**

**b) processing the query with the second system, wherein the second system utilizes only information in a storage area not residing on the second system to process the query (see Fig. 1-3 and col. 4, lines 34-40 and col. 5, lines 5-10, Raz). The information resides in the external system that will provide for the second system's query whenever needed; and**

c) utilizing the second system to return a result of the processed query to the first system (Fig.1-Fig.3 and summary of Raz). ...

Applicant argues, Raz does not teach or suggest “processing the query with the second system, wherein the second system utilizes only information in a storage area not residing on the second system to process the query” (response 8/25/03). The examiner respectfully disagrees because Raz teaches the limitations of the claimed limitation. For example, Raz teaches the external systems (see 11, Fig. 1, Raz) that store the information. When an application requires information that is not on the network information database servers, the external system (11, Fig. 1) will provide the needed information (see col. 4, lines 31-40, Raz) and the external system is separate from the server system utilizes information that qualify the claimed limitation.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner’s rejections. For the Examiner’s convenience, amended independent claims 1, 14, and 27 are reproduced in their entirety herein below.

#### Claims 1, 14, and 27

1. (currently amended) A method for accessing information on a network, the method comprising the steps of:
  - a) allowing a first system to submit a query to a second system;
  - b) processing the query with the second system, wherein the second system utilizes metadata that is only in a storage area not residing on the second system to process the query; and
  - c) utilizing the second system to return a result of the processed query to the first system.
  
14. (currently amended) A network database management system for accessing information on a network, the system comprising:
  - means for allowing a first system to submit a query to a second system;
  - means for processing the query with the second system, wherein the second system utilizes metadata that is only in a storage area not residing on the second system to process the query; and
  - means for utilizing the second system to return a result of the processed query to the first system.
  
27. (currently amended) A computer readable medium containing program instructions for accessing information on a network, the program instructions comprising the steps of:
  - a) allowing a first system to submit a query to a second system;
  - b) processing the query with the second system, wherein the second system utilizes metadata that is only in a storage area not residing on the second system to process the query; and
  - c) utilizing the second system to return a result of the processed query to the first system.

Raz does not teach or suggest “processing the query with the second system, wherein the second system utilizes metadata that is only in a storage area not residing on the second system to

process the query,” as recited in amended independent claims 1, 14, and 27. The Examiner has referred to an external system 11 (Figure 1) that stores information and provides the information when an application requires information that is not on the network information database servers (column 4, lines 31-40). However, this information is not metadata but is instead data content provided by a content provider. Data content is raw data to be accessed. In contrast as is well known, metadata is descriptive information about the data content. In Raz, control or application intelligence, i.e., metadata, is dynamically redistributed and resides at all of the data servers (column 2, lines 11-20, and column 3, lines 31-35). Accordingly, the disclosure in Raz actually *teaches away* from the present invention and is clearly different from the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 14, and 27.

In accordance with the present invention, the second system does not have the burden of maintaining the metadata. Accordingly, the second system can behave strictly as a database processing engine (specification, page 5, lines 14-16) and therefore can process queries faster. In addition, the metadata is maintained in the separate storage area of a separate system, which can be faster and have access times and higher reliability than the second system (specification, page 7, lines 19-20). Furthermore, if the separate storage area is located at a client system, users of the client system can have control over their data and can enhance their capabilities without interference from other users (specification, page 7, line 19, to page 8, line 10). Accordingly, because Raz teaches that the metadata is dynamically distributed between all of servers, Raz does not provide the benefits of faster query processing, faster access times, higher reliability, and increased user control as recited in the independent claims.

Therefore, Raz does not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 14, and 27, and these claims are allowable over Raz.

Remaining dependent claims

Dependent claims 2, 4-13, 15, 17-26, 28, and 30-39 depend from claims 1, 14 and 27, respectively. Accordingly, the above-articulated arguments related to claims 1, 14 and 27 apply with equal force to claims 2, 4-13, 15, 17-26, 28, and 30-39, which are thus allowable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 14 and 27.

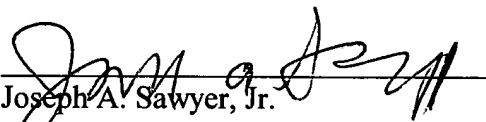
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-2, 4-15, 17-28, 30-39, and 43-48 are patentable over the cited reference. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims as now presented.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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November 18, 2003  
Date

  
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